

Clyde Historical Museums - Police Lock-up

Clyde Historical Museums have in their possession a small Police Lock-up building that was moved from the rear of the Clyde Courthouse a number of years ago. The Lock-up is dated to c.1938 and is currently housed at the back of the Blyth St museum property where there is no public access to the structure.

The Clyde Historical Museums Committee are strongly of the view that the relocation of this impressive little building to the land adjoining the Blyth Street Museum should happen as soon as possible rather than remaining in-situ for the foreseeable future. The main reasons for this are outlined below.

The Continuing Degradation of the building

The present site is exposed to the sun and therefore very hot. Paint work that was completed on the building following an architect's conservation report (Origin Consultants, 2014) is already blistering and peeling. The building is crammed in next to other buildings at the rear of the Blyth St Museum, making any repair and maintenance extremely difficult to undertake.

The Present Site is Unworthy of the Building's Significance

The Lock-up is neither seen or enjoyed in its present location. For a heritage structure that is of significance to Clyde, its present setting is "detrimental to its character, particularly as it once occupied a prominent position on Blyth Street" (Origin Consultants, 2014).

The building has excellent Presentation Potential

Even though the Lock-up is not the original jail from the 1800's, it is still the perfect presentation space for the stories around Clyde's policing during the goldrush, including the Gold Escort and the great Gold Robbery.

The New Site fits with the Development of a New Heritage Walk

The Clyde Historical Museums Committee proposes to develop a heritage walk around Clyde that will extend the museum experience out into the community. It will add another dimension to the educational experience and story-telling of the history of Clyde. The heritage journey would begin at the Blyth St Museum then move to the Police Lock-up outside. From there visitors can walk to other sites. We would like to include in this tour:

- Saint Michaels and All Angels church (if we can reach an agreement with the new owners)
- The Holden Cottage (in front of the Briar Herb Factory Museum, refitted with its story clearly told)
- The Railway Museum

In the future we would also like to add:

- The Goods Shed (fitted inside with an exhibition similar to the one we proposed in our concept plans for the new museum space)
- The Briar Herb Factory (with a clear exhibition that tells the factory's unique story)
- The "Walk Around Clyde" brochure, presently published by Promote Dunstan which may also be amalgamated into this project.

For the foreseeable future, the Blyth St Museum has to be the Clyde Historical Museum Committee's major focus. We are determined to make it as interesting, inspiring and educational as possible. We also want it to have a strong Identity that stands the Museum apart from others in the region. The addition of the Clyde Police Lock-Up would help greatly with this. It would also be the catalyst for the Heritage Walk concept we wish to create.